

## Elements of Purpose and Need

The following items may assist in the explanation of the need for a proposed action. It is by no means all-inclusive or applicable in every situation and is intended only as a guide.

- *Project Status* - Briefly describe the project history including actions taken to date, other agencies and governmental units involved, action spending, schedules, etc.
- *Capacity* - Is the capacity of the present facility inadequate for the present traffic? Projected traffic? What capacity is needed? What is the level(s) of service for existing and proposed facilities?
- *System Linkage* - Is the proposed project a "connecting link?" How does it fit in the transportation system?
- *Transportation Demand* - Including relationship to any statewide plan or adopted urban transportation plan together with an explanation of the project's traffic forecasts that are substantially different from those estimates from the 23 U.S.C. 134 (Section 134) planning process.
- *Legislation* - Is there a Federal, State, or local governmental mandate for the action?
- *Social Demands or Economic Development* - New employment, schools, land use plans, recreation, etc. What projected economic development/land use changes indicate the need to improve or add to the highway capacity?
- *Modal Interrelationships* - How will the proposed facility interface with and serve to complement airports, rail and port facilities, mass transit services, etc.?
- *Safety* - Is the proposed project necessary to correct an existing or potential safety hazard? Is the existing accident rate excessively high? Why? How will the proposed project improve it?
- *Roadway Deficiencies* - Is the proposed project necessary to correct existing roadway deficiencies (e.g., substandard geometrics, load limits on structures, inadequate cross-section, or high maintenance costs)? How will the proposed project improve it?

This material is covered in [Technical Advisory document TA 6640](#)